IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2 and 3 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and amend Claims 1, 4, 7, 8 and 9 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a reading unit constructed to read an image in an original;

a character recognizing unit constructed to recognize a character in the image read by said reading unit and to output a character code as a result of recognition;

a storing unit constructed to store a character font;

a readout unit constructed to read the character font from said storing unit based on the character code output ~~in response to a result of recognition obtained~~ by said character recognizing unit;

a detecting unit constructed to detect first character size concerning the character in the image read by said reading unit;

a setting unit constructed to set a magnification ratio ~~information~~ based on an instruction by an operator;

a determining unit constructed to determine second character size based on the first character size and the magnification ratio ~~information~~;

a selecting unit constructed to select a type of the character font stored in said storing unit based on an instruction by the [[an]] operator; and

a generating unit constructed to generate a reproduced image, which includes characters having the second character size, based on the character font, the type of which is selected by said selecting unit,

wherein said generating unit generates the [[said]] reproduced image by combining the characters having the second character size with a plurality of kinds of character gaps so that the width of the reproduced image corresponds to the width of the image read by said reading unit which is multiplied by ~~in accordance with~~ the magnification ratio ~~information and the second character size~~.

2. and 3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the determining unit determines second character size ~~is determined~~ as a maximum size by which all characters in the original can be reproduced as reproduced images.

5. and 6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said generating unit reproduces characters by combining a plurality of kinds of character gaps when a number of pixels of a character gap calculated in accordance with the magnification ratio ~~information~~ is not an integer.

8. (Currently amended) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

reading an image in an original;

detecting first character size information concerning a character in the image;

recognizing a character in the image <u>and outputting a character code as a result of recognition</u>;

reading a character font from a storing unit <u>based on the</u> ~~in response to a result of~~ character <u>code</u> ~~recognition~~;

setting a magnification <u>ratio</u> ~~information~~ based on an instruction by an operator;

determining second character size based on the first character size and the magnification <u>ratio</u> ~~information~~;

selecting a type of [[the]] character font based on an instruction by <u>the</u> [[an]] operator; and

generating a reproduced image, which includes characters having the second character size, based on the read character font, the type of which is selected by said selecting step,

wherein said generating step generates <u>the</u> [[said]] reproduced image by combining the characters <u>having the second character size</u> with a plurality of kinds of character gaps <u>so that the width of the reproduced image corresponds to the width of the image read from the original which is multiplied by</u> ~~in accordance with~~ the magnification <u>ratio</u> ~~information and the second character size~~.

- 4 -

9. (Currently amended) A recording medium readable by a computer characterized by storing a program therein, said program using the computer to execute the processing comprising the steps of:

reading an image in an original;

detecting first character size information concerning a character in the image;

recognizing a character in the image and outputting a character code as a result of recognition;

reading a character font from a storing unit based on the ~~means in response to a result of~~ character code ~~recognition~~;

setting a magnification ratio ~~information~~ based on an instruction by an operator;

determining second character size based on the first character size and the magnification ratio ~~information~~;

selecting a type of [[the]] character font based on an instruction by the [[an]] operator; and

generating a reproduced image, which includes characters having the second character size, based on the read character font, type of which is selected by said selecting step,

wherein said generating step generates the [[said]] reproduced image by combining the characters having the second character size with a plurality of kinds of character gaps so that the width of the reproduced image corresponds to the width of the

- 5 -

image read from the original which is multiplied by ~~in accordance with~~ the magnification

ratio ~~information and the second character size~~.

10. to 25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 8, wherein said

method enables to output the reproduced image in an image processing apparatus which

can form on a sheet an image based on data input from at least any of a plurality of data

generation sources including an original reading unit and an external apparatus.

27. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 8, wherein said

method enables to output the reproduced image in an image processing apparatus which

can transmit data to an external apparatus through at least any of a plurality of data

transmission media including a personal computer interface and a network.

28. and 29. (Canceled)